

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /053 W

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R 151400Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1217

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

CINCUSNAVEUR

CTG ONE ZERO ZERO POINT ONE

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MPOL, UR, US

SUBJ: US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD

REF: LENINGRAD 0693

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD
REMAINS NUMBER ONE EVENT AMONG LENINGRAD PROLETARIAT.
PUBLIC VISITING AFTERNOON OF MAY 14 AGAIN SAW UPWARDS OF
6,000 PERSONS TOURING LEAHY AND TATNALL AND ONE MAY
SAFELY ASSUME THAT WORD OF MOUTH FROM THOSE WHO SUCCEEDED
IN GETTING ABOARD WILL ACT AS MULTIPLE IN DISSEMINATION
OF UNDOUBTEDLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS TO GREAT NUMBERS OF
LENINGRADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD DAY OF U.S. NAVY SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD WAS
JUST AS SUCCESSFUL AS PRECEDING 48 HOURS AND WIDE PRESS
AND TV COVERAGE HAS INSURED THAT EVENT IS WELL KNOWN.
PUBLIC VISITING ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 14 BROUGHT ANOTHER
6,000 SOME PERSONS ON BOARD VESSELS--STRETCHING
CAPACITY OF HOSPITALITY IN TIME ALLOTTED--AND SOVIET
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USE OF "INVITATION CARDS" HAS BEEN NO HINDRANCE IN THIS

REGARD. IN THE MEANTIME, FAVORABLE WEATHER CONTINUES TO PROMOTE LIBERTY POSSIBILITIES FOR CREW MEMBERS AND KNOTS OF SAILORS AND CURIOUS LENINGRADERS FREQUENTLY SEEN AROUND CITY. AS ONE SAILOR PUT IT, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK DOWN THE STREET WITHOUT BEING ACCOSTED IN FRIENDLY FASHION; SAILORS WITH CIGARETTES OR CHEWING GUM IN POCKET FIND EAGER TAKERS AND RUSSIAN SENSE OF EXCHANGE HOSPITALITY BRINGS COUNTLESS PINS (ZNACHKI) IN RETURN. ALTHOUGH IT IS UP TO SHIP OFFICERS TO TAKE FINAL READING, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LENINGRAD IS ACQUIRING REPUTATION AS GREAT LIBERTY PORT.

3. MAY 15 EVNETS INCLUDED LUNCHEONS ON BOARD LEAHY FOR "BLUEBIRD" FILM PERSONALITIES--PARTICULARLY ELIZABETH TAYLOR--AND ADMIRAL LANGILLE'S LUNCHEON FOR AMBASSADOR AND MRS. STOESSEL, CONSUL GENERAL, AND OTHER GUESTS. ARRANGEMENTS ARE SET FOR ON-BOARD RECEPTION AT 1800 MAY 15 FOR SOME 80 SOVIET MILITARY, NAVAL AND CIVILIAN GUESTS, PLUS EMBASSY MOSCOW ATTACHES, FOREIGN ATTACHES, AND CONGEN OFFICERS. TWO MAIN MILITARY GUESTS WILL BE VICE ADMIRAL VLADIMIR MATVEYEVICH LEONENKOV, COMMANDER OF LENINGRAD NAVAL BASE, AND MAJOR GENERAL GEORGIY YAKOVLEVICH VASIL'YANOV, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE LENINGRAD MILITARY DISTRICT. SOVIET SECRECY PROVED TOO MUCH FOR COMPLETE FORTHCOMINGNESS BY SOVIET NAVY AND, DESPITE MUCH URGING TO REVEAL NAMES OF OTHER MILITARY GUESTS, FINAL LIST SIMPLY SPECIFIES "IN ADDITION, SEVEN ADMIRALS, ONE GENERAL, AND TWENTY OFFICERS." CIVILIAN GUESTS AT ON-BOARD RECEPTION WILL INCLUDE THREE LENINGRAD PARTY OFFICIALS: V.F. VOLKOV, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS, OBKOM; N.YA. SUSLOV, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, OBKOM; AND V.V. KASHIN, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS, GORKOM. OTHER CIVILIAN GUESTS INCLUDE A.A. CHISTYAKOV, DEPUTY MAYOR OF LENINGRAD; G.I. POPOV, HEAD OF LENINGRAD DIPLOMATIC AGENCY; AND THE EDITORS OF LENINGRAD'S THREE DAILY PAPERS, THE RECTOR OF LENINGRAD UNIVERSITY, DIRECTOR OF THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM, AND HEAD OF THE BALTIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

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4. SOVIET HOSTS HAVE ARRANGED ESPECIALLY FOR FOUNTAINS AT PETRODVORETS (PETERHOF) TO BE TURNED ON MAY 15 AND ADMIRAL LANGILLE WILL BE AMONG THOSE VISITING THIS FORMER IMPERIAL PALACE. EVENING OF MAY 16 WILL SEE FINAL SOCIAL EVENT OF VISIT, CONSUL GENERAL'S RECEPTION FOR SOME 330 PERSONS AT HIS RESIDENCE.

5. AS VETERANS OF COUNTLESS REPRESENTATIONAL AFFAIRS

HERE IN LENINGRAD, THIS VISIT CONTINUES TO IMPRESS US AS
AMOUNTING TO BOOK DEFINITION OF SHOWING THE FLAG.
POLITICALLY SPEAKING, WARM TOASTS AND FRIENDLY CONVERSATION
WILL NOT TURN OVER THE LEAF OF IDEOLOGICAL OPPOSITION, BUT
TOTAL IMPACT OF VISIT SERVES OUR POLITICAL PURPOSES IN
WAYS WHICH WILL SURELY HAVE CONTINUED EFFECT. GENERAL
PROPAGANDA LINE HERE WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE
"ENEMIES OF DETENTE AND FORCES OF OPPOSITION," BUT--
HOWEVER INURED TO PROPAGANDA LENINGRADERS MAY BE BY THIS
TIME--ACTIONS CAN STILL TEMPER WORDS.
NEUBERT

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